

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MILI, TW

SUBJECT: B-52 SAFE HAVEN OPERATIONS

REFERENCE: TAIPEI 5229

FOLLOWING MESSAGE REQUESTED REFTEL IS REPEATED FOR YOUR
INFOMATION:

P31210;Z AUG 72 ZFF5

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC PRIORITY

CINCSAC PRIORITY

COMUSMACV PRIORITY

CINCPACAF PRIORITY

COMUSMACTHAI PRIORITY

COMUSTDC PRIORITY

COMUSJAPAN PRIORITY

INFO WHITE HOUSE PRIORITY

TOSEC 18

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WHITE HOUSE PLEASE PASS MRS. ROTHE OR MR. BREMER FOR
SECRETARY ROGERS AND AMBASSADOR JOHNSON IN HONOLULU

ATTENTION COUNTRY DIRECTOR ERICSON

SUBJECT: B-52/KC-135 WEATHER EVACUATION IN PACOM

REFERENCE: (A) STATE 212188/311648Z JUL 68, (B) TAIPEI 3156, 231223Z JUN 72 (NOTAL), (C) STATE 123430/081943Z JUL 72, (D) STATE 123446/090051Z JUL 72, (E) SAC 121930Z JUL 72 (NOTAL), (F) TOKYO 7279/100803Z JUL 72, (G) CINCPAC 140445Z JUL 72, (H) CINCPACAF 150332Z JUL 72, (I) CINCPAC 222159Z JUL 72, (J) DEFENSE 242140Z JUL 72

1. REF A WAS CONSOLIDATED UNDERSTANDING OF POLITICAL LIMITATIONS AND NOTIFICATION REQUIRED. REF B STATED GRC APPROVED USE OF HSIN CHU CAFB FOR CERTAIN SAFE-HAVEN PURPOSES. REF C CONCURRED IN EVACUATION PLANNING AND REQUESTED EMBASSY TOKYO INFORM GOJ, AT HIGH LEVEL, OF IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHES TO ABILITY TO USE KADENA FOR WEATHER EVACUATION PURPOSES. REF D MODIFIED REF C TO LIMIT USE OF CCK TO NO MORE THAN THREE-B-52S FOR WEATHER EVACUATION IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN LOWEST POSSIBLE PROFILE. REF E CONTAINED SAC VIEWS ON SUBJECT PROBLEM, POINTING OUT NECESSITY FOR USE OF KADENA. REF F STATED GOJ FONMIN UNDERSTOOD WEATHER EVACUATION INEVITABLE UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, BUT SAID SHOULD BE LIMITED TO THOSE NECESSARY, AND THAT ACCURATE INFORMATION SHOULD BE PROVIDED IN ADVANCE TO GOJ ON EVACUATION FLIGHTS. REF G, INTERALIA, REQUESTED SAC PROVIDE A KNOWLEDGEABLE OFFICER TO ASSIST IN BRIEFING EMB TOKYO ON EVACUATION PROBLEMS AND PROCEDURES. REF H CONTAINED CINCPACAF PROPOSAL TO USE KADENA, CCK, HSIN CHU, CLARK, U-TAPAO AND TAKHLI. IN REF I CINCPAC EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS CONCERNING CONTINUED USE OF REF A 1968 MESSAGE AS BASIC WEATHER EVACUATION GUIDELINES BECAUSE OF OKINAWA REVERSION AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS. CINCPAC FURTHER REQUESTED REF A BE UPDATED PRIOR TO BRIEFING EMBASSY TOKYO AND OBTAINING "AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE" TO WEATHER EVACUATION GUIDELINES FROM HOST COUNTRIES INVOLVED. REF J IS PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE
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ON B-52 CONTINGENCY RELEASES.

2. THIS MESSAGE REVIEWS AND UPDATES REF A AND SUBSEQUENT TRAFFIC ON SAFE-HAVEN ACTIVITIES IN PACOM AND CONSTITUTES CURRENT POLICY AND PLANNING GUIDANCE ON THIS SUBJECT. IT COMPILES IN ONE MESSAGE POLITICAL LIMITATIONS ON USE OF

CERTAIN FACILITIES AND NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR WEATHER EVACUATION AND DEPLOYMENT OF B-52 AND KC-135 AIRCRAFT IN THE PACOM AREA. THESE GUIDELINES DO NOT REPEAT NOT REPLACE PROVISIONS FOR THE FOREIGN CLEARANCE GUIDE AND/OR MAJOR AIR COMMAND REQUIREMENTS, BUT PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PLANNING GUIDANCE CONSIDERATIONS BECAUSE OF CURRENT POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES.

3. TYPHOON EVACUATION NEEDS MUST BE LOOKED UPON BY OUR ALLIES AS EMERGENCY REQUIREMENTS. THE DECISION TO DEPLOY TO A GIVEN BASE/BASES MUST BE MADE IN LIGHT OF CIRCUMSTANCES AT THAT TIME. NORMALLY, HOST GOVERNMENTS WILL NOT BE APPROACHED ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS CONCERNING POSSIBLE B-52 WEATHER EVACUATIONS UNTIL EVACUATION DECISION IS IMMINENT AND OPERATIONAL PLANS CONFIRM THAT USE OF A PARTICULAR BASE IS CONTEMPLATED.

4. JAPAN

WITHIN JAPAN, PRIMARY EMPHASIS WILL BE PLACED ON KADENA FOR SAC AIRCRAFT. REF E STATES THAT SAC INTENDS TO SAFE-HAVEN AIRCRAFT OTHER THAN B-52S TO JAPANESE MAINLAND BASES. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, UNLIMITED USE OF THE FACILITIES AT KADENA, WILL BE NECESSARY. CONCERNING CONTINGENCIES WHERE WEATHER EVACUATION OF B-52S AT ANY JAPANESE BASE, INCLUDING KADENA MAY APPEAR NECESSARY, EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO SPREAD THE LOAD TO OTHER COUNTRIES ENSURING THAT AT LEAST SOME B-52S ARE RELOCATED TO BASES OTHER THAN THOSE IN JAPAN, SUCH AS U-TAPAO, OR CCK. THIS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IF IT BECOMES NECESSARY TO EVACUATE ALL B-52S FROM GUAM OR IF THE AIRCRAFT ARE RETURNING FROM BOMBING RUNS OVER VIETNAM. YOKOTA WILL BE USED FOR B-52S ONLY UNDER CONDITIONS OF THE MOST EXTREME EMERGENCY, SUCH AS A RUNWAY ACCIDENT AT
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KADENA OR SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS AT GUAM AND KADENA MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR ENROUTE AIRCRAFT TO LAND AT EITHER OF THESE LOCATIONS, OR AN INFLIGHT EMERGENCY SUCH AS MECHANICAL FAILURE OR INABILITY TO COMPLETE INFLIGHT REFUELING. BASES IN MAINLAND JAPAN MAY BE USED BY AIRCRAFT OTHER THAN B-52S LIMITED ONLY BY AIRFIELD CAPACITY. NO B-52 COMBAT MISSIONS WILL BE LAUNCHED FROM BASES IN JAPAN.

5. REPUBLIC OF CHINA (CCK AND HSIN CHU CAFB)

A. ANY REDEPLOYMENT OF AIRCRAFT TO TAIWAN FOR EXTENDED PERIODS OR IN ORDER TO CONDUCT OPERATIONS FROM TAIWAN AS A BASE WILL REQUIRE STATE/DEFENSE CLEARANCE.

B. B-52. CCK CAN ACCOMMODATE UP TO 50 B-52S AT ANY ONE TIME. HSIN CHU, WHILE CONSIDERED TO BE ALMOST A "BARE BASE," CAN ACCOMMODATE UP TO 45 B-52 AIRCRAFT. HOWEVER, UNDER CURRENT HIGH LEVEL GUIDANCE NO MORE THAN THREE (3), REPEAT THREE (3) B-52S WILL BE EVACUATED INTO TAIWAN AT ANY GIVEN TIME. WITHIN THESE LIMITS, THERE IS NO RESTRICTION ON CONVENTIONALLY LOADED B-52S TAKING REFUGE ON TAIWAN IF TIME DOES NOT PERMIT DOWN-LOADING.

LAUNCHING OF COMBAT MISSIONS FROM BASES ON TAIWAN IS PROHIBITED.

C. KC-135S. THERE ARE NO LIMITATIONS BEYOND AIRFIELD CAPACITIES FOR EVACUATION OF KC-135S TO BASES ON TAIWAN SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS OF PARA 5A OF THIS MESSAGE.

6. PHILIPPINES (CLARK)

(A) B-52S. THE CAPABILITY OF CLARK TO ACCOMMODATE B-52S IS MARGINAL DUE TO NARROW RUNWAYS AND TAXIWAYS, WHICH IN TURN IMPOSE SAFETY-OF-FLIGHT CONDITIONS AND REQUIRE AIRCRAFT TO LAND WITH MINIMUM FUEL LOAD. EXISTING AGREEMENTS WITH THE GOP DO NOT, REPEAT NOT, PROHIBIT WEATHER EVACUATION OF B-52S TO CLARK. CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS WITH GOP DO NOT, REPEAT NOT, PROVIDE FOR USE OF CLARK TO CONDUCT COMBAT OPERATIONS.

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(B) KC-135S. WEATHER EVACUATION OF KC-135 AIRCRAFT TO CLARK IS LIMITED ONLY BY AIRFIELD CAPABILITY.

7. THAILAND (U-TAPAO, TAKHLI)

RTG HAS APPROVED TEMPORARY DEPLOYMENT OF B-52S AND KC-135S. HOWEVER, SPECIFIC CLEARANCE WILL BE OBTAINED FOR EACH DEPLOYMENT.

8. NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES:

A. EARLIEST PRACTICAL PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF POSSIBLE OR IMPENDING WEATHER EVACUATION/DIVERSION OF US AIRCRAFT WILL BE MADE TO APPROPRIATE AMEMBASSY BY MOST RAPID MEANS OF COMMUNICATION. THIS WILL BE CONFIRMED BY FLASH PRECEDENCE MESSAGE AS SOON THEREAFTER AS PRACTICAL TO AT LEAST THE FOLLOWING ADDRESSEES: CINCPAC, JCS, OSD, SEC STATE, APPROPRIATE EMBASSIES, CINCPACAF, COMUSFJ, COMUSTDC, CINCPAC REP PHIL, COMUS MAC THAI, DEPCOM 713 AF. THIS NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE, WHICH WILL INCLUDE AVAILABLE UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION ON THE WEATHER CONDITION NECESSITATING THE EVACUATION OPERATION, IS INTENDED TO INSURE EMBASSIES ARE AWARE ON A CONTINUING AND TIMELY BASIS OF THE WEATHER CONDITIONS WHICH MAY REQUIRE EVACUATION

AND OF ACTUAL DECISION TO EVACUATE IN ORDER THAT AMBASSADORS MAY FULFILL SUCH OTHER NOTIFICATION RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE HOST GOVERNMENT AS THEY MAY DEEM NECESSARY.

B. NOTIFICATION OF ACTUAL DEPARTURE OF EVACUATING AIRCRAFT WILL BE PROVIDED, AS IN PARA 8A ABOVE, AT LEAST

ONE HOUR BEFORE INITIAL EVACUATION/DIVERSION TIME AND SHOULD INCLUDE EARLIEST AND LATEST ETAS AT (BASE(S) SELECTED.

C. ABOVE NOTIFICATIONS ARE ADDITIONAL TO STANDARD CLEARANCE AND NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES MENTIONED IN PARA 2.

D. EMBASSIES MAY AT THEIR DISCRETION CONTINUE TO SECRET

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NOTIFY (AND FOR BANGKOK, SEEK CLEARANCE OF) HOST GOVERNMENT FOR EACH WEATHER EVACUATION DEPLOYMENT, AS APPROPRIATE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING AGREEMENTS.

9. PUBLIC AFFAIRS:

A. GUIDANCE OF REF J IS QUOTED FOR JAPAN, REPUBLIC OF CHINA, AND PHILIPPINES. QUOTE: US AIR FORCE B-52 AIRCRAFT (KC-135 AERIAL REFUELING TANKERS) HAVE REQUIRED SAFE-HAVEN AT (BLANK) AIR BASE BECAUSE TYPHOON CONDITIONS ARE THREATENING THE PLANES' HOME BASE, ANDERSON AF0, GUAM. THE AIRCRAFT AND THEIR CREWS WILL REMAIN AT THIS BASE UNTIL WEATHER CONDITIONS ALLOW THEM TO RETURN TO THEIR HOME BASE. NO COMBAT SORTIES WILL BE FLOWN FROM THIS WEATHER REFUGE BASE.

B. FUEL: US AIR FORCE B-52/KC-135 AIRCRAFT WERE FORCED TO LAND AT (BLANK) AIR BASE, (BLANK COUNTRY) (TIME AND DATE) AFTER THEY WERE UNABLE TO ACCOMPLISH IN-FLIGHT REFUELING BECAUSE OF SEVERE WEATHER IN THE DESIGNATED RENDEZVOUS AREA. THEY WILL RETURN TO ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE AFTER REFUELING AT (BLANK).

C. MECHANICAL PROBLEM: US AIR FORCE B-52 (KC-135) AIRCRAFT LANDED AT (BLANK) AIR BASE, (BLANK COUNTRY) (DATE AND TIME) BECAUSE OF MECHANICAL DIFFICULTIES. THE AIRCRAFT WILL RETURN TO ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, GUAM AS SOON AS REPAIRS ARE MADE.

D. Q'S AND A'S RELATED TO THE ABOVE CONTINGENCY STATEMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(1) QUESTION: HOW MANY AIRCRAFT ARE INVOLVED?
ANSWER: WE DO NOT DISCUSS OPERATIONAL MATTERS.

(2) QUESTION: HOW LONG WILL THE AIRCRAFT REMAIN AT (BLANK) BASE? ANSWER: THE AIRCRAFT WILL DEPART AS SOON AS THEY CAN SAFELY BE RETURNED TO THEIR HOME BASE. (AFTER REPAIR, REFUELED, CREW REST OR IMPROVED WEATHER.)

(3) QUESTION: WILL THESE AIRCRAFT FLY ON COMBAT

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MISSIONS FROM THIS BASE? ANSWER: NO. THE AIRCRAFT WILL RETURN DIRECTLY TO GUAM UPON DEPARTURE FROM THIS BASE.

(4) QUESTION: WHERE WAS THE REFUELING RENDEZVOUS AREA? ANSWER: WE DO NOT DISCUSS OPERATIONAL MATTERS.

(B) QUESTION: WHAT WAS THE NATURE OF MECHANICAL TROUBLE? ANSWER (ENGINE PROBLEMS, HYDRAULIC SYSTEM MALFUNCTION, AS THE CASE MAY BE WITHIN SECURITY LIMITATIONS.) UNQUOTE.

E. FOR EMBASSY BANGKOK. IF YOU DEEM NECESSARY, STATEMENT IN SUB-PARA 9A MAY BE USED WITH DELETION OF LAST SENTENCE, QUOTE: NO COMBAT SORTIES WILL BE FLOWN FROM THIS WEATHER REFUGE BASE. UNQUOTE. ADDITIONALLY DELETE QUESTION/ANSWER NUMBER 3 ABOVE IF YOU DESIRE TO USE ANY OR ALL OF SUB-PARA 9D. IRWIN. END OF MESSAGE. KISSINGER

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